

Documenting Japanese language in highly diverse Japanese societies

Yoshiyuki ASAHI
(NINJAL/TUFS)

In post-war Japan, urbanization, influx of Japanese residents from all over the country into large cities, and a rapid increase of foreign residents in Japan have impacted Japanese language in a more diverse way than ever before. Sociolinguistic, Japanese linguistics and Japanese as a second language studies have been conducted to struggle with the relevant issues. Nevertheless, no comprehensive accounts have been proposed to document this varying social facet of Japanese language. This trend is expected to proceed more in the future. Therefore, scholars in the above mentioned disciplines are strongly expected to discuss, plan, and conduct any incubation, feasibility, and empirical studies to develop the research framework and to suggest any potential future research topics.

In order to elucidate the topics to tackle with this situation, this paper firstly began a brief description of how Japanese society has become highly diverse with a close look at some statistics on influx of Japanese outside Tokyo and also that of foreigners. This paper, secondly, illustrated some studies such as linguistic landscape, ethnic media, use of dialect in social network and *manga*, to show that multilingualism as well as multidialectism play their role in the Japanese society. Lastly, this paper renders an insight on what Japanese language will and should be like in the future.